

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-03-029

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

**Facility**

Florida Medical Center  
Lauderdale Lakes, FL  
License: 2816-1

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

Docket No.: N/A

License No.: Agreement State Licensee

Subject: MISSING BRACHYTHERAPY DEVICE

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (the Bureau) notified the NRC Operations Center on October 20, 2003, that the licensee had reported a missing brachytherapy device. The device was a Noveste Beta-Cath System (model A1767, serial number 86853) containing 12 strontium-90 seeds used for brachytherapy procedures. The total radioactivity of the seeds is 2.22 megabecquerels (60 millicuries).

The licensee reported that the device was last used on September 18, 2003, but was not missed until October 15, 2003, and reported to the Bureau as missing on October 20, 2003. The container used to store the device was found empty, and the licensee believes that the device is lost and could have been sent to the local landfill.

The Bureau responded to the event on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, and the event is currently under investigation. The local police authorities have not been notified.

The NRC Atlanta office received initial notification of this occurrence by e-mail from the Bureau. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2003.

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OFFICE	RI/SAO	RI/DNMS	RI/SAO	RI/PAO	
NAME	R WOODRUFF RLW	G PANGBURN fmc for	D WHITE adw	D SCRENCI dps	
DATE	10/22/03	10/22/03	10/23/03	10/23/03	